GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3784
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
CHANGE IN FRANCHISE PATTERN OF PCOS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the franchising pattern of the Public Call Offices (PCOs), by replacing the individual operators and entrusting the entire system to a few corporate bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantage to be derived from such change?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) Sir, Government have not approved any proposal to change the franchising pattern of the PCOs by replacing the individual operators. However, there is a proposal to introduce card operated automated pay phones.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The advantages envisaged in the proposed scheme include the following :-

(i) consumers will have choice for use of card pay phone and manually operated booths.

(ii) The growth of pay phones would be uniform and systematic resulting in availability of more and more pay phones to the public at large.

(iii) More revenue can be generated.

(iv) Reduction in complaints of overcharging by PCO operators.

(v) Prolonged availability of the service.